

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA  
Case No. \_\_\_\_\_ -Civ.

**02-22503**

DIANE HAUGHTON and MICHAEL HAUGHTON,  
as Co-Personal Representatives and  
Co-Administrators of the Estate of  
AALIYAH DANA HAUGHTON, Deceased,

**CIV - HUCK**

Plaintiffs,

**MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
TURNOFF**

vs.

ATLANTIC FLIGHT GROUP, INC.;  
BLACKHAWK INTERNATIONAL  
AIRWAYS CORP.; SKYSTREAM, INC.;  
and GILBERT CHACON,

Defendants.

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**COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

Plaintiffs, Diane and Michael Haughton, as Co-Personal Representatives and Co-Administrators of the Estate of Aaliyah Dana Haughton, by and through their attorneys, Kreindler & Kreindler, and Podhurst Orseck Josefsberg Eaton Meadow Olin & Perwin, P.A, sue defendants Atlantic Flight Group, Inc., Blackhawk International Airways Corp., Skystream, Inc. and Gilbert Chacon, and respectfully allege as follows:

**JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

1. Jurisdiction is founded on diversity of citizenship, 28 U.S.C. §1332, in that:
  - a. The decedent Aaliyah Dana Haughton was a citizen of New York;
  - b. Plaintiffs Diane Haughton and Michael Haughton are the parents of

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decedent Aaliyah Dana Haughton, were appointed the Co-Personal Representatives and Co-Administrators of the Estate of Aaliyah Dana Haughton pursuant to Letters of Administration issued by the Surrogate's Court of the County of New York, New York, on January 15, 2002, and are citizens of the State of New York;

c. Defendant Atlantic Flight Group, Inc. (hereinafter "Atlantic Flight Group") was and is a corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of Florida, maintains its principal place of business in the State of Florida, and is engaged in business in Florida within this District;

d. Defendant Blackhawk International Airways, Inc. (hereinafter "Blackhawk International Airways") was and is a corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of Florida, maintains its principal place of business in the State of Florida, and is engaged in business in Florida within this District;

e. Defendant Skystream, Inc. (hereinafter "Skystream") was and is a corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of Florida, maintains its principal place of business in the State of Florida, and is engaged in business in Florida within this District;

f. Defendant Gilbert Chacon (hereinafter "Chacon") was and is a citizen of Florida and resides in the State of Florida in this District and has had and continues to have contacts with the State of Florida sufficient for this Court to exercise jurisdiction;

g. The amount in controversy exceeds the sum or value of Seventy-Five Thousand (\$75,000) Dollars, exclusive of interest and costs.

2. Venue in this District satisfies the requirements of 28 U.S.C. §1391, in that, as set forth in paragraph 1, each of the defendants reside within and/or are subject to personal jurisdiction in this District.

### **GENERAL ALLEGATIONS**

3. On August 25, 2001, at approximately 18:45 Eastern Daylight Time, decedent Aaliyah Dana Haughton was a passenger in a Cessna model 402B aircraft, registration number N8097W ("the subject aircraft") being operated by defendants Blackhawk International Airways, Skystream and Chacon for the purpose of transporting passengers from Marsh Harbour Airport, Abaco, Bahamas to Opa-Locka Airport, Opa-Locka, Florida ("the subject flight"), when the subject aircraft crashed shortly after take-off from Marsh Harbour Airport, Bahamas, causing the decedent to suffer serious and fatal injuries, including fear and terror of her impending death.

4. Decedent Aaliyah Dana Haughton is survived by her parents, plaintiffs Diane and Michael Haughton, and other interested beneficiaries, and they and the Estate of Aaliyah Dana Haughton have sustained recoverable damages, including loss of support, loss of net earnings of the decedent, loss of services, loss of inheritance of prospective accumulations, mental anguish, emotional pain and suffering, loss of society, companionship, comfort, training, guidance and education, and plaintiffs' decedent, Aaliyah Dana Haughton, was caused to endure conscious physical pain and mental suffering and decedent's survivors were caused to incur funeral expenses and other damages to be proven at trial and are entitled to be compensated therefor.

**COUNT I, FOR WRONGFUL DEATH AND SURVIVAL DAMAGES ARISING  
OUT OF THE DEATH OF AALIYAH DANA HAUGHTON AGAINST BLACKHAWK  
INTERNATIONAL AIRWAYS AND CHACON BASED ON NEGLIGENCE**

5. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference as though set forth herein paragraphs 1 through 4 above.

6. Prior to and on August 25, 2001, defendants Blackhawk International Airways and Chacon were engaged in the business of operating an aircraft charter service providing aircraft flights to passengers in the United States, Bahamas, and the Caribbean area in connection with which they owned, controlled, leased, operated, maintained and repaired the subject aircraft.

7. The subject aircraft was leased or loaned to defendants Blackhawk International Airways and Chacon by defendants Skystream and Chacon for use as an air charter aircraft in the United States, Bahamas and the Caribbean.

8. On August 25, 2001, while defendants Blackhawk International Airways and Chacon, through their pilot, were attempting to fly the subject aircraft from Marsh Harbour Airport, Abaco, Bahamas to Opa-Locka Airport, Florida, the subject aircraft crashed, causing decedent Aaliyah Dana Haughton to suffer serious and fatal injuries, and death.

9. At all times material hereto, defendants Blackhawk International Airways and Chacon had a duty to decedent Aaliyah Dana Haughton to use reasonable care in the operation and maintenance of the subject aircraft, had a duty to provide a properly certificated and qualified pilot to conduct the subject August 25, 2001 flight, and had a duty to make reasonable inquiry about the background, experience and qualifications of the pilot before retaining him to operate the subject aircraft on the subject flight.

10. The crash of the subject aircraft and the resulting death of decedent Aaliyah Dana Haughton were proximately caused by the negligence of defendants Blackhawk International Airways and Chacon, by and through their officers, agents, employees and servants in that defendants Blackhawk International Airways and Chacon breached their duty and failed to properly operate and maintain the subject aircraft with due care and caution; failed to provide air charter transportation in a manner reasonably calculated to ensure the safe completion of the subject flight; failed to ensure that the subject aircraft was safely configured and/or appropriately loaded for the subject flight; failed to train and instruct the pilot of the subject flight regarding the safe operation of the subject aircraft, including the calculation of maximum take-off weight and center of gravity requirements; negligently hired improperly trained and unqualified flight personnel, including the pilot of the subject flight; improperly failed to investigate and obtain qualified guidance on the selection of the pilot for the subject flight; improperly selected an inadequately trained, inexperienced and ill-prepared pilot to fly the subject aircraft on the subject flight; failed to make reasonable inquiry about the background, experience and qualifications of the pilot before retaining him to operate the subject aircraft on the subject flight; failed to impose safe operational limits for the subject flight; and were otherwise negligent in the operation, maintenance and control of the subject aircraft.

11. The dangerous and unsafe configuration of the subject aircraft as used for the subject flight and the inadequate training and experience of the pilot and the failure of defendants Blackhawk International Airways and Chacon to exercise the level of care appropriate and reasonable for the subject flight was a proximate and legal cause of the death of Aaliyah Dana Haughton.

12. As a direct and proximate result of the negligence of defendants Blackhawk International Airways and Chacon and the death of Aaliyah Dana Haughton, as aforesaid, recoverable damages were sustained by the plaintiffs, the decedent's survivors and Estate.

**COUNT II, FOR WRONGFUL DEATH AND SURVIVAL DAMAGES  
ARISING OUT OF THE DEATH OF AALIYAH DANA HAUGHTON  
AGAINST SKYSTREAM AND CHACON BASED ON NEGLIGENCE**

13. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference as though set forth herein paragraphs 1 through 4 and 6 through 12 above.

14. Prior to and on August 25, 2001, defendants Skystream and Chacon were engaged in the business of owning, leasing, lending, operating, repairing and maintaining aircraft, including the subject aircraft.

15. Prior to and on August 25, 2001, the subject aircraft was owned by defendants Skystream and Chacon and in turn was leased or loaned to defendants Blackhawk International Airways and Chacon for use as an air charter aircraft in the United States, Bahamas and the Caribbean.

16. At all times material hereto, defendants Skystream and Chacon owed decedent Aaliyah Dana Haughton a duty to exercise reasonable care to ensure the subject aircraft was operated in a safe and prudent manner and maintained in accordance with applicable safety standards and governmental regulations.

17. The crash of the subject aircraft and the resulting death of decedent Aaliyah Dana Haughton were proximately caused by the negligence of defendants Skystream and Chacon, by and through their officers, agents, employees and servants in that defendants Skystream and Chacon negligently operated and/or maintained the subject aircraft and breached their duty of

care to decedent Aaliyah Dana Haughton as a foreseeable user of the subject aircraft; negligently maintained, repaired, operated, supervised the operation thereof, inspected and entrusted the subject aircraft to defendants Blackhawk International Airways and Chacon; negligently failed to properly inspect and maintain the subject aircraft so that it would be safe for use; negligently leased and/or loaned the subject aircraft to persons and/or corporations that failed to properly and safely operate it; negligently allowed a pilot to operate the subject aircraft who was inexperienced and unqualified to do so; negligently failed to operate the subject aircraft in a safe and prudent manner; negligently failed to warn decedent Aaliyah Dana Haughton as to the risks inherent in the operation of the subject aircraft and were otherwise negligent in the operation, maintenance and control of the subject aircraft.

18. As a direct and proximate result of the negligence of defendants Skystream and Chacon and the death of Aaliyah Dana Haughton, as aforesaid, recoverable damages were sustained by the plaintiffs, the decedent's survivors and Estate.

**COUNT III, FOR WRONGFUL DEATH AND SURVIVAL DAMAGES  
ARISING OUT OF THE DEATH OF AALIYAH DANA HAUGHTON  
AGAINST ATLANTIC FLIGHT GROUP BASED ON NEGLIGENCE**

19. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference as though set forth herein paragraphs 1 through 4, 6 through 12, and 14 through 18 above.

20. Prior to and on August 25, 2001, defendant Atlantic Flight Group operated an aircraft flight broker and charter service in the business of arranging or providing non-scheduled air transportation.

21. On or about August 25, 2001, defendant Atlantic Flight Group was retained to provide a charter aircraft to transport passengers, including Aaliyah Dana Haughton, from Marsh

Harbour Airport, Bahamas to Opa-Locka Airport, Florida, and subsequently entered into an agreement with defendants Blackhawk International Airways, Skystream and Chacon to provide an aircraft for the subject flight.

22. Defendant Atlantic Flight Group had a duty to decedent Aaliyah Dana Haughton to use reasonable care in selecting the mode of transportation and in providing the transportation, including a duty to take reasonable measures to ascertain that the pilot assigned to fly the subject aircraft on August 25, 2001 was properly trained and had the experience to conduct the subject flight.

23. Defendant Atlantic Flight Group, by and through its agents, employees and representatives, breached said duty in that it negligently arranged for the transportation, including but not limited to negligently selecting the mode of transportation, failing to determine the safety of the subject aircraft and failing to ensure that the pilot selected to fly the subject aircraft was properly qualified, trained and experienced to make the subject flight.

24. As a direct and proximate result of the negligence of defendant Atlantic Flight Group and the death of Aaliyah Dana Haughton, as aforesaid, recoverable damages were sustained by the plaintiffs, the decedent's survivors and Estate.

WHEREFORE, plaintiffs Diane Haughton and Michael Haughton, as Co-Personal Representatives of the Estate of Aaliyah Dana Haughton, demand judgment against defendants, and each of them, for fair and reasonable damages, together with interest, costs and disbursements, a trial by jury and for such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

**JURY DEMAND**

Plaintiffs request a trial by jury.

Dated: Miami, Florida  
August 23, 2002

PODHURST ORSECK JOSEFSBERG EATON  
MEADOW OLIN & PERWIN, P.A.

By:



Michael S. Olin  
Fla. Bar No. 220310  
City National Bank Building, Suite 800  
25 West Flagler Street  
Miami, FL 33130  
(305) 358-2800

-and-

KREINDLER & KREINDLER

Marc S. Moller (MM-0143)  
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100 Park Avenue  
New York, NY 10017  
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*Attorneys for Plaintiffs*

**CIVIL COVER SHEET****02-22503**

JS 44

(Rev. 12/96)

The JS-44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

**I. (a) PLAINTIFFS**

DIANE HAUGHTON and MICHAEL HAUGHTON, as Co-Personal Representatives and Co-Administrators of the Estate of AALIYAH DANA HAUGHTON, Deceased,

(b) COUNTY OF RESIDENCE OF FIRST LISTED PLAINTIFF  
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

Dade [02/22/03] Florida [Turnoff]

**(c) ATTORNEYS (FIRM NAME, ADDRESS, AND TELEPHONE NUMBER)**

Michael S. Olin, Esq.	Marc S. Moller, Esq.
City National Bank Building, Ste. 800	Robert J. Spragg, Esq.
25 West Flagler Street	Kreindler & Kreindler
Miami, FL 33130	100 Park Ave., New York, NY 10017
(305) 358-2800	(212) 687-8181

**II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION**

(PLACE AN "X" IN ONE BOX ONLY)

<input type="checkbox"/> 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 U.S. Government Defendant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

**III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES**

(For Diversity Cases Only)		(Place an "X" in one box for Plaintiff and one for Defendant)		
Citizen of This State	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	PTF DEF	PTF DEF
Citizen of Another State	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	Incorporated or Principal Place of Business in This State	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4
Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	Incorporated and Principal Place of Business in Another State	<input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/> 5
			Foreign Nation	<input type="checkbox"/> 6 <input type="checkbox"/> 6

**IV. ORIGIN**

(PLACE AN "X" IN ONE BOX ONLY)

1 Original Proceeding     2 Removed from State Court     3 Remanded from Appellate Court

4 Reinstated or Reopened

Transferred from  
 5 another district (specify)

6 Multidistrict Litigation

Appeal to District Judge from  
 7 Magistrate Judgment

**V. NATURE OF SUIT**

(PLACE AN "X" IN ONE BOX ONLY)

CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excl. Veterans) <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veterans's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits <input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other contract <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability	<b>PERSONAL INJURY</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury	<b>PERSONAL INJURY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury-Med. Malpractice <input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product <b>PERSONAL PROPERTY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 610 Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> 620 Other Food & Drug <input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 <input type="checkbox"/> 630 Liquor Laws <input type="checkbox"/> 640 R.R. & Truck <input type="checkbox"/> 650 Airline Regs. <input type="checkbox"/> 660 Occupational Safety/Health <input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawal 28 USC 157 <b>PROPERTY RIGHTS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patents <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark <b>SOCIAL SECURITY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395f) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWV (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSD Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g))
<input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation <input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure <input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment <input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land <input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property	<input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting <input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/Accommodations <input type="checkbox"/> 444 Welfare <input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights	<input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence <b>HABEAS CORPUS:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 530 General <input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty <input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other <input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition	<input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 730 Labor/Mgmt. Reporting & Disclosure Act <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS - Third Party 28 USC 7609

**VI. CAUSE OF ACTION**(CITE THE U.S. CIVIL STATUTE UNDER WHICH YOU ARE FILING AND WRITE BRIEF STATEMENT OF CAUSE.  
DO NOT CITE JURISDICTIONAL UNLESS DIVERSITY.)

Diversity jurisdiction (28 U.S.C. §1332). Cause of action for wrongful death arising out of the crash of a Cessna 402B aircraft on August 25, 2001.

Length of Trial: via 12 days estimated (for both sides to try entire case)

**VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:**  CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION  
 UNDER F.R.C.P. 23

Full compensatory damages  
**DEMAND \$** in excess of the jurisdictional amount. CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:  
**JURY DEMAND:**  YES  NO

**VIII. RELATED CASE(S)** (See Instructions)  
**IF ANY**

JUDGE N/A

DOCKET NUMBER

DATE

8/23/02

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT#

AMOUNT

APPLYING IFFP

\$150.00

JUDGE

MAG. JUDGE

C8/23/02